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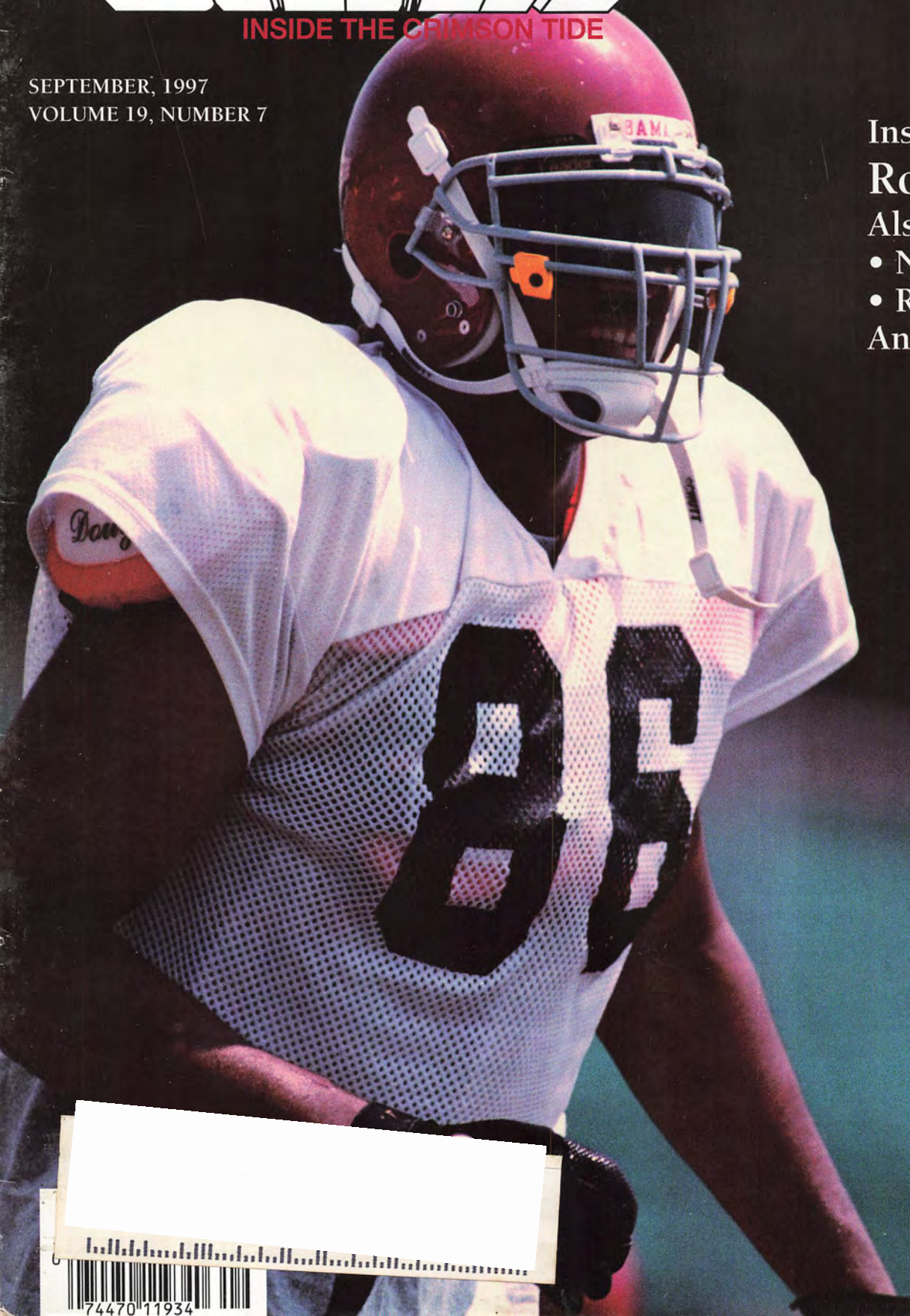
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

SEPTEMBER, 1997
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 7

Inside:
Rod Rutledge

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'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/SEPTEMBER '97



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Barry Fikes Photo



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Alabama Head Coach Mike DuBose made it top priority to add Neil Callaway to the Crimson Tide staff to coach offensive linemen and Callaway has made progress in developing a front. But the work is not finished as depth must be built.

by Kirk McNair

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Rod Rutledge had to rehabilitate his knee this summer after a spring injury. Now he's ready for his final year of Crimson Tide football, knowing he will have to block to be number one, but also hoping to catch some passes. He wants post-college careers in the NFL and in business.

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Alabama went to an unlikely source for a new men's track and field coach, taking one of Auburn's best-known alumni from the Tigers. Glance believes he can compete for the national championship as Alabama's head coach. There are some other new faces on board, too.

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Alabama's cross country teams, as the track squads, have separate coaches this year. David Troy is back to coach the men and has a veteran squad. Rachelle Roberts will coach the women's team this year and she will have to learn about her squad.

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Nothing Moves Without The Line

by Kirk McNair

Progress has been made, but there are still concerns about the offensive line

For a very long time, the question mark of Alabama football teams has been the offensive line. Crimson Tide Head Coach Mike DuBose wanted to change that, and so he hired the finest offensive line coach he knew of, his former Bama teammate, Neil Callaway. Callaway, formerly the offensive line coach at Auburn and at Houston (where he was also assistant head coach and offensive coordinator) isn't going to get the job done overnight, but progress is being made.

With a few exceptions, DuBose has had praise for the offensive line throughout pre-season work. His compliments have gone to everyone involved: Callaway, Strength Coach Terry Jones, and the players. Midway through August drills, DuBose said, "I see that group (the offensive line) improving. Now, they had a lot of room for improvement, but I am seeing it. They are playing more as a unit than they have in the past."

DuBose also said the offensive line has been showing more mental toughness. "And our schemes are better," he said. "I think all the moves we have made in the offensive line have been positive."

The Tide head coach said, "For the quarterbacks and running backs and wide receivers and tight ends to be successful, the offensive line has to block. I consider offen-

sive line blocking the most unnatural thing in football. We grow up doing everything in football except that."

Callaway said, "I think overall we have made some progress because we have worked hard and I like the work ethic of the players. But we are not where we need to be and we need to step up to another level."

Callaway also gives credit to Jones for the increased strength of the linemen. "Terry has done a great job," Callaway said, "but I think a year from now you'll see the real benefits of his program. You don't do it in six months. It takes a year or two for the process to work."

Callaway also points to the players having to learn a new system. "We are still going through some learning processes, a new system, a new way of doing things," he said. "We are learning some new techniques and fundamentals, but a lot of it is simply new terminology. When you learn to use a computer, you first have to learn the language. That's the way football is. We may be doing some of the same things, but have different names for them."

Senior offensive guard Will Friend agreed. He said, "You have different terminology and different calls. A lot of it is the same as we were doing before." One change is that instead of two offensive line coaches as in the past when Jim Fuller coached centers and guards and Danny Pearman handled tackles, Callaway coaches the entire front five. Friend said, "We have one position coach, so all the guys are learning what the whole line does. That's helped us some."

Callaway noted, "There are some changes in techniques. That doesn't mean it was wrong before. It's just that there are different ways to do things right."

There has been one problem with technique in pre-season. DuBose has noted that a part of the running game is guards pulling to provide outside blocking. DuBose has been concerned that the guards have not been getting out quickly enough, forcing the running backs to adjust their pace.

Callaway said during the summer that he would not take a long time to make some changes in the offensive front if there was not immediate improvement in some areas when practice got started in August. He wasn't kidding. The Tide was in full gear on the first day when there was a major change in the alignment.

Michael "Bubba" Ray, the only player with any experience as an Alabama center and the heir apparent at that critical position, was shifted to right tackle for Bama's first full contact work. DuBose said, "We need seven, eight or ten who can play in the offensive line, but the first thing we need is the best five. We determined that Bubba Ray and Paul Hogan were among the best five, and that's why we made the change to get both of them in the first group. We moved Bubba because he's more experienced and has a little bigger body. We're going to have to have some guys who can play more than one position and that's a plus for Ray and for (Brenon) Meadows. We saw last year (when he was working on the scout team against the first defense, then under the auspices of DuBose as defensive coordinator) that football is important to Paul Hogan. He's up to about 270 right now and he is going to give everything on every play. He may get whipped sometimes, but it won't be because of a lack of effort. The game is important to him and the team is important to him."

When Ray moved to tackle, that meant Jason McDonald, who had ended the spring as a shaky number one at right tackle, moved to guard. DuBose believes that change has been good for McDonald, that he is more effective at guard. "He seems more comfortable at an inside position," DuBose said.

It appears the Tide has 12 men in the plans to play in the five offensive line spots this year. Callaway said, "Barring some drastic change," the starters will be Chris Samuels (6-6, 290) at left tackle, Bubba Ray (6-5, 291) at right tackle, Will Friend (6-2, 271) at left guard, either Brenon Meadows (6-3, 280) or Michael Moore (6-6, 290) at right guard and Paul Hogan (6-3, 270) at center. Callaway said that Meadows and Moore "are in a dead heat" to start at right guard.

It is desirable to have players who can play more than one position. Both Ray and Meadows could be pressed into center if need be, but that is not as important as having men who can play both sides of the line



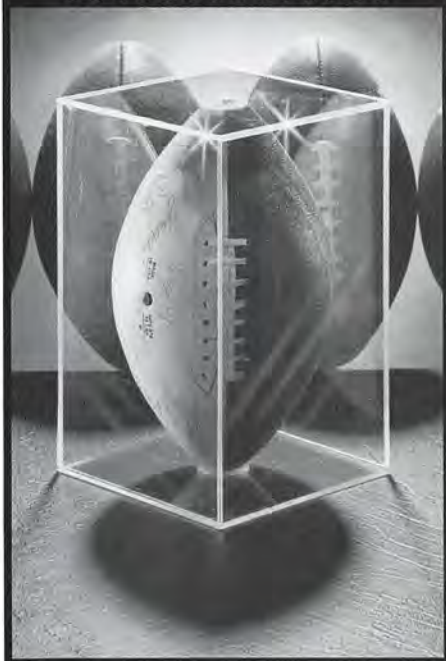
Neil Callaway was hired as Alabama's offensive line coach and charged with developing a unit that can get the job done, making it possible for the other members of the offense to do their jobs. Thus far, there has been praise for the job Callaway has done.

Robert Sutton Photo

1997 Alabama Football Roster

No	Name, Pos	Yr	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown	No	Name, Pos	Yr	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown
1	Chris Horne, SS	Fr.	6-0	215	HS	Sandersville, Ga.	42	Paul Pickett, MLB	Sr.	6-2	221	2L	LaGrange, Ga.
1	Montey Poe, QB	So.	5-11	195	Sq	Nashville, Tenn.	43	Steve Harris, WLB	Jr.	6-0	246	2L	Town Creek
1	Darren Spadoni, PK	Fr.	5-10	165	RS	Tuscaloosa	44	Travis Carroll, MLB	Fr.	6-4	235	HS	Jacksonville, Fla.
2	Deshea Townsend, RCB	Sr.	5-10	180	3L	Batesville, Miss.	44	Marty Russell, SLB	Fr.	6-1	236	RS	Hurst, Texas
2	Atokie Bowman, SE	Sr.	6-2	165	Sq	Bigbee	45	Adam Joiner, TE	Fr.	6-3	265	RS	Milton, Fla.
3	Michael Feagin, LCB	Jr.	5-9	179	2L	Greenville	45	Corey Bryan, MLB	Fr.	6-0	222	RS	Andalusia
4	Steve Stanley, SLB	Jr.	6-3	199	2L	Leighton	46	John Fielding, SS/LB	Fr.	6-2	180	HS	Augusta, Ga.
4	Chad Floyd, PK	So.	6-0	200	Sq	Cullman	47	Eddie Hunter, WLB	Jr.	6-2	205	1L	Mobile
5	Jonah Dismukes, PK	Fr.	6-0	180	RS	Mobile	47	Chad Barron, PK	Fr.	6-2	200	RS	Marietta, Ga.
5	Andrew Zow, QB	Fr.	6-1	220	HS	Lake Butler, Fla.	48	Trevis Smith, WLB	Jr.	6-1	222	2L	Montgomery
6	Lance Tucker, QB	Sr.	6-0	182	3L	Fayette	49	Lee Ferguson, SN/TE	Sr.	6-1	186	Sq	Albertville
7	Quincy Jackson, FL	Fr.	6-1	185	HS	Brundridge	50	Rob-E Staten, MLB	Fr.	6-1	250	RS	Pearl, Miss.
7	Ryan Pflugner, PK	So.	5-11	165	Sq	Sarasota, Fla.	51	Santana Stennis, LDT	Fr.	6-2	270	HS	Meridian, Miss.
7	Reginald Bobo, CB	Fr.	6-0	180	RS	Blomfield Hills, Mich.	53	Granison Wagstaff, MLB	Jr.	6-2	238	2L	Enterprise
8	Tim Bowens, FL	So.	6-1	195	1L	Killen	54	Steven Holloway, RG	Fr.	6-3	250	Sq	Hoover
8	Wesley Black, FL	So.	6-2	175	Sq	Hoover	55	Brooks Brodie, C	So.	6-3	260	Tr	Tifton, Ga.
9	Freddie Kitchens, QB	Sr.	6-2	229	3L	Attalla	56	Scott Howard, SLB	Jr.	5-10	200	Sq	Hartselle
9	Shane Reeves, PK	Fr.	5-7	150	RS	Southside	56	Billy Payne, MLB	Sr.	6-1	245	Sq	Hoover
10	Thomas Hill, RCB	So.	5-10	180	1L	Meridian, Miss.	57	Matt Blake, LG	So.	6-2	265	Sq	Montgomery
10	Rodney Palmer, FL	So.	5-11	185	Sq	Greenville	58	Matt Harrison, C	Jr.	6-4	260	Sq	Dadeville
11	Chad Goss, FL	Sr.	5-11	177	2L	Warner Robins, Ga.	58	Ty Babcock, C	Fr.	6-1	275	RS	Albertville
11	Marcus Slay, CB	Fr.	5-7	160	RS	Dunwoody, Ga.	58	Matt Herndon, MLB	So.	6-0	200	Sq	Winter Park, Fla.
12	John David Phillips, QB	Jr.	6-3	208	2L	Anniston	59	Chris Edwards, MLB	Jr.	6-2	236	2L	Bessemer
13	Kecalf Bailey, CB	Fr.	5-9	160	HS	Tuscaloosa	59	Chris Ray, LT	Fr.	6-2	255	RS	Piedmont
13	Wes Long, QB	Fr.	6-4	205	RS	Guntersville	60	Chris Samuels, LT	So.	6-6	290	1L	Mobile
14	Lee Chambers, QB	Fr.	6-4	200	RS	Enterprise	61	Chris Sign, LG	Jr.	6-2	262	Sq	Arlington, Texas
15	A.J. Diaz, PK/P	Fr.	5-11	180	HS	Miami, Fla.	61	Chris Siebert, WLB	Sr.	6-1	205	Sq	Union Hill
16	Chris Reier, CB	Fr.	5-9	180	HS	Jacksonville, Fla.	62	Michael Ray, RT	Sr.	6-5	291	2L	Boaz
16	Percy Goode, FL	Jr.	5-9	180	Sq	Jasper	62	Jonathan Rudolph, SLB	Jr.	6-2	197	Sq	Mobile
17	Warren Foust, S	Jr.	6-3	207	2L	Midwest City, Okla.	63	Sage Spree, LG	Jr.	6-4	285	2L	Boligee
17	Wayne Thomas, CB	Fr.	5-11	190	HS	Dothan	64	Marquis Forge, LDT	So.	6-0	252	Sq	Autaugaville
18	Robert Warnock, FL	Jr.	6-0	190	Sq	Birmingham	66	Brenon Meadows, RG-C	Fr.	6-3	280	1L	Birmingham
19	Brian Cunningham, PK	Jr.	5-11	178	1L	Birmingham	67	Kelvis White, LDT	Fr.	6-3	265	RS	Courtland
19	Jason Jones, S	Fr.	5-11	185	RS	Tuscaloosa	68	Will Friend, LG	Sr.	6-2	271	3L	Philadelphia, Miss.
19	James Sullen, WR	So.	6-3	197	Sq	Tuskegee	69	Michael Moore, RG	So.	6-6	290	1L	Fayette
20	Kelvin Sigler, S	Jr.	6-1	180	2L	Mobile	69	Ross Gunnells, WLB	Fr.	6-1	190	RS	Aliceville
20	Chris Kemp, PK	Fr.	5-10	180	RS	Jacksonville, Fla.	70	Jason McDonald, RG	So.	6-6	296	1L	Theodore
21	Montoya Madden, TB	Jr.	5-9	210	2L	Town Creek	71	Shawn Baker, C	Fr.	6-3	220	HS	Birmingham
21	Greg Phillips, SS	So.	5-11	185	Sq	Mobile	72	Will Cuthbert, RT	Fr.	6-6	300	HS	Ft. Pierce, Fla.
22	Michael Vaughn, FL	Jr.	6-1	199	2L	Clarksdale, Miss.	73	Josh Swords, LG	Jr.	6-3	285	Sq	Brentwood, Tenn.
22	Jarrold Warren, SS	So.	5-11	185	Sq	Birmingham	74	Paul Hogan, C	Fr.	6-3	270	RS	Valdosta, Ga.
23	Andre Short, SS	Sr.	5-11	205	3L	LaGrange, Ga.	75	Griff Redmill, LT	Fr.	6-6	258	RS	Jasper
23	Miles Christian, RB	So.	5-9	195	Sq	Tuscaloosa	75	Brian Brasseal, RT	So.	6-2	280	Sq	Ashland
24	Tony Dixon, S	Fr.	6-3	195	HS	Reform	76	Corey Kinnebrew, RG	Fr.	6-3	280	RS	Rome, Ga.
24	Patrick Morgan, P	So.	6-0	183	Sq	Birmingham	77	Joel Holliday, RT	Sr.	6-3	312	3L	Six Mile, S.C.
25	Fernando Bryant, LCB	Jr.	6-0	170	2L	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	78	Michael Barfield, LG	Fr.	6-4	295	HS	Dothan
25	James Hanson, RB	Fr.	5-10	223	RS	Scottsboro	79	Kevin Flowers, RDE	Sr.	6-0	221	Sq	Troy
26	Arvin Richard, TB	Fr.	5-7	170	RS	Atlanta	80	Jason McAddley, SE	Fr.	6-3	185	HS	Oak Ridge, Tenn.
27	Antoneyo Williams, RB	Fr.	5-10	215	HS	Tuscaloosa	81	Edgar Walker, RDE	Sr.	6-4	250	2L	Dothan
27	Jack Hines, SE	Jr.	6-1	180	Sq	Brewton	82	Thad Abernathy, SE	Sr.	6-0	168	Sq	Enterprise
28	Shaun Bohannon, RB	Fr.	6-2	195	HS	Oak Ridge, Tenn.	82	Billy Donner, LDE	So.	6-3	225	Sq	Birmingham
28	Bo Butler, S	So.	5-11	184	Sq	Scottsboro	83	Calvin Hall, SE	Jr.	6-4	200	2L	Gallatin, Tenn.
29	Dennis Riddle, TB	Sr.	6-0	195	3L	Tuscaloosa	84	Shamari Buchanan, SE	So.	6-2	214	1L	Atlanta
30	Dustin McClintock, FB	Fr.	6-3	235	RS	Quinlan, Texas	85	Rhett Crutchfield, TE	Jr.	6-3	246	Sq	Birmingham
31	Adam Cox, RB	Fr.	6-2	215	HS	Jasper	86	Rod Rutledge, TE	Sr.	6-4	260	3L	Birmingham
31	Jason Kellen, P	Fr.	6-3	215	RS	Tuscaloosa	87	Carlton Person, SLB	Fr.	5-11	230	HS	North Jackson
32	Curtis Alexander, TB	Sr.	6-1	202	3L	Memphis, Tenn.	87	Jackson Eubank, WR	Jr.	5-11	184	Sq	Mountain Brook
33	Ed Scissum, FB	Sr.	6-0	232	3L	Attalla	87	Robert Wells, TE	Fr.	6-4	220	RS	Andalusia
33	Walter Womack, S	So.	5-10	175	Sq	Greenville	88	Kenny Smith, LDE	Fr.	6-5	290	HS	Meridian, Miss.
34	Chris Hood, LDE	Jr.	6-3	273	2L	Town Creek	88	Wes Allen, SE	Jr.	6-0	160	Sq	Hoover
35	Owen Winston, RCB	Jr.	6-0	185	2L	Montgomery	89	Tito Smith, SLB	Jr.	6-3	224	1L	Birmingham
36	Marcus Spencer, S	Fr.	6-0	175	RS	York	89	Spence Beasley, WLB	Fr.	6-1	240	RS	Anniston
36	Matt Teague, FB	Jr.	6-0	219	Sq	Montgomery	90	Jamie Carter, RDT	So.	6-3	290	1L	Philadelphia, Miss.
36	Martin Glover, FL	Fr.	5-9	190	RS	Sumiton	91	Clint Waggoner, DE	So.	6-4	235	1L	Fairburn, Ga.
37	Shaun Alexander, TB	So.	6-1	205	1L	Florence, Ky	91	Bradley Ledbetter, TE	Fr.	6-4	220	Sq	Pelham
37	Chad McGehee, LCB	Jr.	5-9	179	Sq	Rainbow City	92	Shaun Williams, LDE	Fr.	6-4	240	HS	Augusta, Ga.
38	Shawn Draper, TE/DL	Fr.	6-4	285	HS	Huntsville	94	Joe Yount, TE/DT	Fr.	6-4	250	HS	Albertville
39	Antoine Hunter, CB	Jr.	6-0	176	JC	Valdosta, Ga.	95	Sam Matthews, RDT	Fr.	6-6	285	HS	Jacksonville, Fla.
39	Travis Crim, SS	Sr.	5-9	177	1L	Clanton	95	William Rasmussen, LDT	So.	6-1	235	Sq	Seminole, Fla.
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at the same position. Callaway thinks he has "swing" players at both tackle and guard.

One of the big surprises of the fall has been the performance of tackle Joel Holliday. Holliday went from a starter at left tackle in 1995 to a little-used back-up last year. Now Holliday (6-3, 312) is one of the more pleasant surprises of the year. He is expected to be the top back-up at both tackle spots. "Joel has improved and I'm happy for him," DuBose said. "He has a smile on his face. For a while there, I thought he'd given up on us and himself."

Others in the picture at tackle are redshirt freshman Griff Redmill (6-6, 260), who was converted from defensive line to left tackle in the spring, and true freshman right tackle Will Cuthbert (6-6, 300), who really impressed Bama coaches by reporting in excellent condition and 40 pounds under the weight (330) he was when he signed.

McDonald (6-6, 300), who was moved from his right tackle position to right guard, now appears the likely swing man at guard, playing both positions. He will be behind Meadows and Moore on the right side and behind Friend and another converted tackle, Sage Spree (6-4, 285) at left guard.

Alabama got a nice break at the center position when a new walk-on showed up. Brooks Brodie was considered one of the nation's top prospects a couple of years ago

when he was playing for his father, Coach Gene Brodie, at Tift County High School in Tifton, Georgia. However, he dropped out of Georgia, went to junior college, and is now a walk-on center for Alabama. It is not a huge surprise that he ended up under Callaway, because Coach Brodie was at Macon Central a couple of decades ago when Callaway was playing there.

"Getting Brodie (6-3, 260) is a good deal for us because it gives us depth at center and in deep snapping," Callaway said.

One man who had been expected to have a lot of playing time this fall will have none. Corey Kinnebrew has disappointed the coaching staff for the second consecutive year. As a true freshman last fall, Kinnebrew reported too much overweight to even practice. However, by the end of the 1996 season he was showing great improvement as a member of the scout team. This August it was announced that Kinnebrew, a 6-3, 320-pound guard, has failed to meet academic requirements for eligibility this year and will not be able to play. He will be able to practice with the team and remain on scholarship. If he makes satisfactory progress academically, he will have three years of eligibility remaining next fall.

Another player who was a redshirt freshman offensive lineman, Kelvis White, 6-3, 265, has been moved to the defensive line.

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A Guess At Bama's Needs

by Kirk McNair

Here are some who might be in Tide's football future

College coaches can start calling high school prep prospects September 1, and in some areas it has become something like midnight madness. Although it might not thrill a normal person to get a "Hey, hiya doin', Big Guy?" phone call at a minute after midnight, the top prospects can probably expect something like that from zealous recruiting coordinators and coaches.

There probably are no years when a head coach says, "We're in pretty good shape, so this recruiting year doesn't matter too much," but this is one that is very important to Alabama. The Tide must follow up last year's excellent class with another fine crop in order to minimize the affects of NCAA scholarship reductions in 1995 and 1996.

Alabama Head Football Coach Mike DuBose said that while his predecessor, Gene Stallings, recruited "the best available athletes, much the way an NFL team drafts," that he would recruit on a need basis by position. He also said that Alabama would broaden its recruiting territory and that he would probably offer 100 or more scholarships rather than the 65-70 that have been offered in recent years. There is no question Alabama is going to recruit

much harder in Florida—not just the panhandle, but all of Florida. There are reports of some 50 top players in Florida being high on Alabama's recruiting list. And Bama reportedly is going to work much harder recruiting the greater Atlanta area.

Although Alabama's wish list will change as the year progresses, because of a perceived change in needs and/or because of a change in available prospects, it is probably not unrealistic to think the Tide would like to add two quarterbacks, one or two running backs and/or fullbacks, two tight ends, two wide receivers, six offensive linemen, four defensive linemen (and there aren't many defensive tackles to be found in Alabama or around the South this year), four linebackers and three defensive backs. It is likely no kicker will be signed on February 4. (And if Bama signs any junior college players in December, they will count against next year's limit of 25 signees).

There are two quarterback rumors making the rounds, one in connection with what has traditionally been the most accurate newspaper pre-season list of football prospects in Alabama. Cecil Hurt, sports editor of the *Tuscaloosa News*, had Tyler Watts, the Pelham quarterback, at the top of his Sweet 16 pre-season list. And in his interview with Watts, Hurt reported that the quarterback would probably make his decision known in September, possibly before his prep season begins on September 5. He told Hurt that his top choices were Alabama, Tennessee and Auburn, and said

that he had grown up an Alabama fan.

The other quarterback rumor has less substance to it. There have been reports that former Fort Walton Beach, Florida, Choctowhatchee quarterback Billy Luckie, had quit at Clemson. Luckie, 6-1, 215, was one of the top quarterback prospects in the South a few years ago and committed to Alabama. However, he later made a recruiting visit to Clemson and committed to the Tigers. A South Carolina newspaper reported that Luckie was considering transferring to either Alabama or Houston or, perhaps, to a lower division school so he would not have to sit out a year.

The rest of the *Tuscaloosa News* Sweet 16 is:

Running back Marvin Constant, 6-3, 247, Tuscaloosa Central; defensive back Mel Willis, 6-3, 200, Luverne; offensive lineman Bart Raulston, 6-9, 316, Sylvania; linebacker Darius Gilbert, 6-2, 215, Oxford; linebacker Robert Malone, 6-3, 240, Prichard Blount; defensive end Don Page, 6-4, 250, Foley; running back Shontua Ray, 5-10, 185, Montevallo; running back Patrick Nix, 6-1, 212, Attalla Etowah; quarterback Luke Tucker, 6-0, 180, Fayette County; quarterback Jermaine Crenshaw, 6-2, 193, Greenville; defensive end Rashad Moore, 6-3, 270, Huntsville Johnson; wide receiver Sam Collins, 6-2, 178, Fayette County; defensive end Kenny Sears, 6-4, 240, Montgomery Lee; defensive back Dedric Hardwick, 6-0, 200, North Jackson; and linebacker Leron Little, 6-6, 218, Aliceville.

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top priority for Alabama football recruiters this year. Bama would probably like to sign another quarterback, too, just because the Crimson Tide pantry is pretty bare. But the early performance of freshman Andrew Zow probably takes a little of the pressure off Bama recruiters. It may be that a second quarterback would be one who could also play another position.

Watts isn't the only prep star who is expected to announce his decision early. There have been numerous reports that linebacker Kendal Morehead, a 6-4, 276-pounder from Melrose High School in Memphis, will make his decision known on August 29. He is believed to be leaning to Alabama over Tennessee.

Morehead was one of the many prep stars who was in Alabama's football camp last summer. Another who was in the camp and who was very impressive was running back Jonathan Adams, 6-1, 188, of Osceola, Arkansas. Freddie Milons, a 5-10, 175-pound quarterback at Starkville, Mississippi, was in the Tide's camp and he is being recruited as a wide receiver by Bama. One of the most-noticed players in the summer football camp was offensive lineman Bart Raulston, 6-8, 305, from

Sylvania. Raulston is said to be an outstanding basketball player, which is usually a good sign of quickness and athletic ability.

One other player in Alabama's camp was linebacker Eddie Strong, 6-2, 210, from Batesville (Mississippi) South Panola. Shortly after that camp, Strong announced that he was committed to Ole Miss. However, Alabama coaches are expected to continue to recruit Strong.

One tight end who is on the Crimson Tide recruiting list is Johnovan Morgan, 6-4, 260, of Carol City High School in Miami, Florida. He's the half brother of former Tide linebacking great Derrick Thomas. And defensive back Eric Locke, 5-9, 175, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Riverdale, is a cousin of current Bama cornerback Fernando Bryant.

Tide Strength Coach Terry Jones told 'Bama that it is virtually certain his son, Terry, Jr., a 6-3, 255-pound linebacker, would not be playing football his senior year at Tuscaloosa Central. The elder Jones said that his son, who is also a good basketball player, is receiving some attention from schools that want him to play both sports. He said he did not know what interest, if any, Alabama football or basketball coaches had in his son.



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Michael Feagin:

Concentrating On Playing More

by Donald F. Staffo

Junior cornerback more in Crimson Tide plans than ever before even though still back-up

Michael Feagin played some as a true freshman and he played a little more last year. But this should be the year that Feagin begins to see some real playing time. Feagin, a 5-9, 183-pound junior is listed on the Alabama football depth chart as the second-string left cornerback behind Fernando Bryant, though he could also be the first off the bench to spell right cornerback Deshea Townsend. Feagin also wants to again return punts for the Crimson Tide, a job he held for the first five games last season before he had an "off-game" against Kentucky on homecoming and was replaced by Kelvin Sigler.

With Townsend a senior, Feagin also has his sights set on taking over his position in the starting line-up next year. "Hopefully it will be mine if everything goes as planned," he said. In the meantime, Feagin just wants more significant playing time.

After rushing for 1,680 yards, scoring 16 touchdowns, leading Greenville to the Alabama class 5A state championship and making first-team all-state, Feagin was recruited by the Crimson Tide "as an athlete," meaning his versatility would enable him to play several positions depending upon what the Tide's needs were. As a freshman Feagin practiced as a running back and a wide receiver but only played 108 snaps in 10 games, mostly as a member of special teams. He did run back 11 kickoffs for 186 yards (16.9 average), with a long of 24 yards against Mississippi State. He had perhaps his best game against Southern Miss, when he had four kickoff returns for 65 yards. Although he was one of only a handful of Crimson Tide true freshmen to play that season, Feagin now wishes he was redshirted.

"The coaches asked me to play, but except for special teams, I didn't do much," Feagin said. "I consider it a wasted year. I could have saved that year. As of right now, I wish I had redshirted."

Michael Feagin has been in Crimson Tide football plans as a running back, a flanker, a kick return man (punts and kickoffs) and a cornerback. In his third year, Feagin hopes for even more playing time than he has enjoyed in the past two years. He will back up Fernando Bryant at left cornerback.

Barry Fikes Photo



With the Alabama stable full of quality running backs last season, Feagin went to flanker. Then, just prior to the start of play, he was switched to cornerback. "At the time we (also) had depth at wide receiver but we were very thin at cornerback," explained Secondary Coach Curley Hallman. "There was no one behind (Bryant and Townsend) at that time. We just felt that (Michael) had a better chance to play at cornerback."

In 1996 Feagin almost doubled his playing time, getting in for 212 plays. Playing in every game he returned 11 punts for 73 yards, recovered a fumble against Bowling Green and was in on nine tackles. This year Feagin wants and expects a substantial increase in playing time. And according to Hallman, there's a good chance that he'll get it.

"(Michael's) had a good summer, he's worked hard," Hallman said after the Crimson Tide completed its first few days of pre-season practice. "He did some good things for us last year, but last year he wasn't quite ready to play (cornerback) until the end of the season. This year I expect him to play a good bit. He'll spell Fernando and possibly Deshea on the other side. He's got two years to play a lot of football."

Feagin, who runs a 4.5 forty, bench presses 255 pounds ("on a good day") and squats 485 pounds, has some attributes that

Hallman likes. "He's got quick feet, and to be able to play back there you've got to be able to run and you've got to have some quicks."

"He works hard. I don't have to get on him about his effort or his work habits. I enjoy coaching him because I can coach him hard and he responds. He doesn't go into the tank. I think that in itself will make him better."

Hallman pointed out that Feagin has only been practicing in the defensive backfield for a year so he's still learning to play cornerback. "He's really beginning to comprehend mentally what it takes to play back there, and sometimes I still have to get on him for lack of concentration," Hallman said.

Feagin agreed with his coach. "Sometimes I have a tendency to do what I want to do instead of what he wants me to do, and that comes from a lack of concentration. I have to learn to play what's given to me."

Hallman also said that Feagin needs to work on his man-to-man coverage technique and his tackling. But as with the concentration problem, Hallman thinks improvement will come with more repetitions. "He just needs experience. He never had to do much tackling before," Hallman said.

Being a former tailback, Feagin is looking forward to hitting people. "I took enough

punishment my junior and senior year in high school when I was a running back," he said. "So now I just want to dish it out."

Feagin took a pretty good hit himself this summer, and it wasn't on the football field. He and pre-season All-America defensive tackle Michael Myers were returning from Florida when, during a rainstorm, Myers lost control and the car they were riding in flipped over three times. Fortunately neither Myers nor Feagin were injured seriously. Feagin required 17 stitches in his arm and three in his head, while Myers escaped with only two stitches in his finger. Only taking a week off from his workout routine, Feagin said that the accident didn't set him back much and that he was fully recovered heading into the season.

Feagin related that the high point of his Alabama career so far was playing almost half the game in the Crimson Tide's 17-14 victory over Michigan in last year's Outback Bowl. This year Feagin would like to see even more playing time, beginning with the season-opener vs. Houston.

"I've got two great defensive backs in front of me," he said. "I just want the chance to show my talent and maybe get some recognition. I'm just waiting for my chance to play. I'm also hoping to get my punt return position back. Really, I'll be satisfied with whatever playing time I get."

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He's Part Of The New Look

by John Barnes

Linebackers are short
on experience, not talent

As the Mike DuBose era begins for Alabama football, some new looks are in store on both sides of the football.

New assistant coaches, a revamped offensive line, and a linebacker corps that may prove to be long on talent, but which obviously is short on game experience.

Dwayne Rudd, Ralph Staten and the combination of Tyrell Buckner and Fernando Davis, all starters in 1996, will not return this season. Rudd's departure hurts the most. With one year of eligibility remaining, he chose to forego his final year and enter the NFL draft, eventually signing a lucrative

contract with the Minnesota Vikings. Rudd's presence could have meant the difference between an experienced unit with some quality depth and a young, untested group struggling to go two deep at each position.

Alabama, however, is a program known for producing quality linebackers, players with excellent speed and coverage skills, as well as the ability to enjoy the physical side of football.

Steven Harris is one such player. Set to begin his junior season, the majority of his experience has been on special teams, but his talent is undeniable. Hailing from talent-rich Town Creek and Hazlewood High School, Harris will follow in the footsteps of former Tiders such as Kerry Goode, Tarrant Lynch and Antonio Langham.

Harris enjoys being mentioned alongside former Tide greats from Hazlewood, but wants to make his own mark on the program. "I feel those guys kind of blazed the trail for people like me," he said. "Hazlewood has a great program because we're well-conditioned and know how to win. We expected to win every time we set foot on the field. It's the same at Alabama."

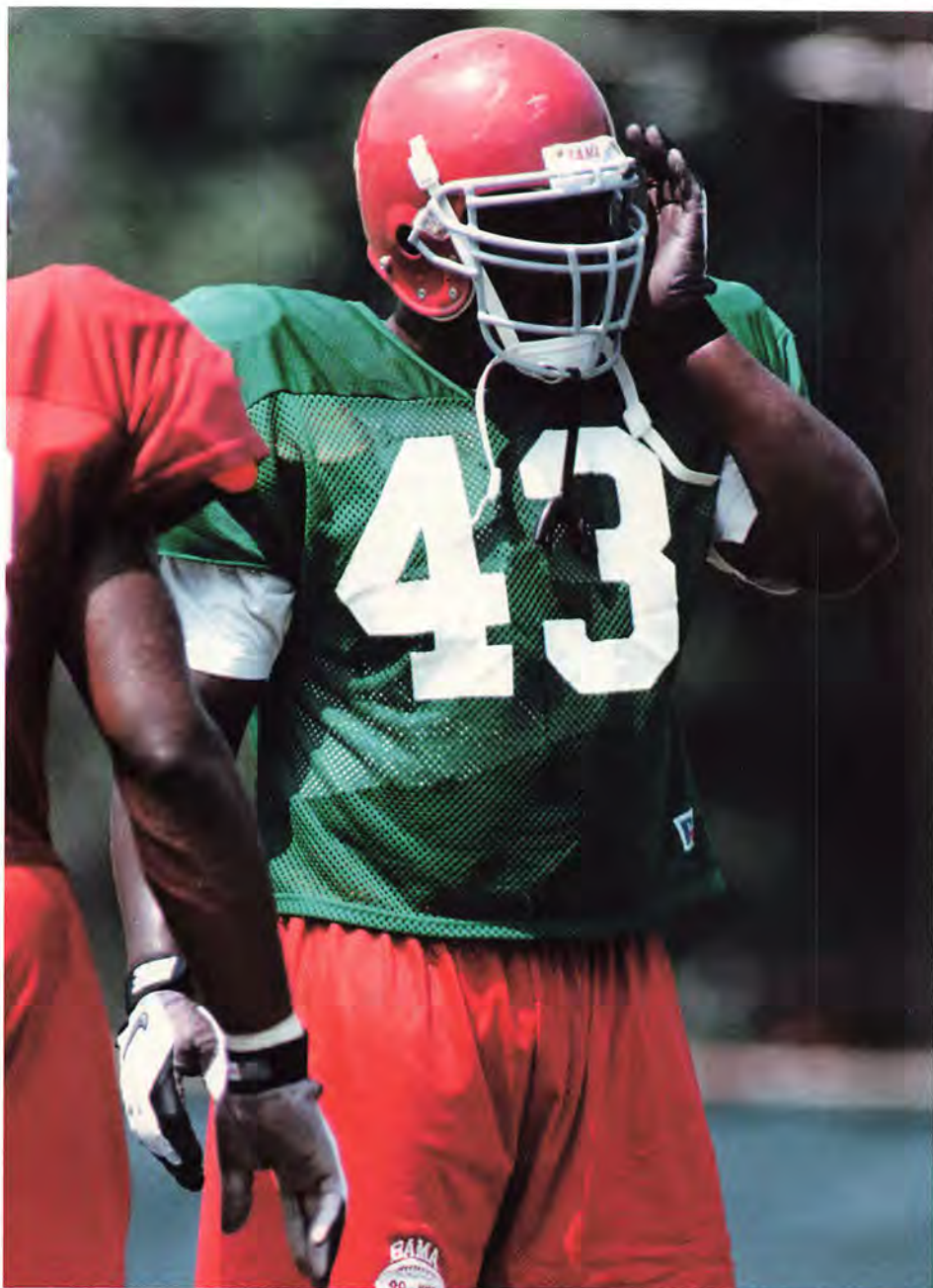
Rated by many publications as the state's top prospect coming out of high school, Harris topped the *Birmingham Post-Herald's* "10 Most Wanted" list and was a unanimous pick to the Class 2A All-State Team.

Harris' talent could have earned him a scholarship to almost any school in the country. However, growing up in Town Creek, there was only one choice.

"I made a few visits here and there," said Harris. "But there was no doubt where I was going. If you're a linebacker, there's no better place in the country to be than Alabama. The linebackers here have always been fast and physical, and that's the way I play."

Coming off an excellent spring, Harris is working alongside Trevis Smith and Eddie Hunter at weakside linebacker, Rudd's old position. Following in the footsteps of Rudd is a challenge Harris welcomes. "He was a fantastic player," said Harris. "He had receiver-type speed and a great nose for the ball. The play he made in the bowl game was unbelievable. I wish he had stayed because we need his experience and leadership, but at the same time, I'll get more playing time."

The departure of Rudd will no doubt put pressure on not only the linebackers, but the defense as a whole. Although Jeff Rouzie remains as linebacker coach, certain schemes and formations are certain to change under new defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson. There has been talk of Alabama occasionally working from the 3-4 alignment, dramatically changing the responsibilities of the linebacker.



Steven Harris came to Alabama because of linebacker tradition, and he also comes from a winning tradition as a former star at Hazlewood High School in Town Creek.

Barry Fikes Photo

Whatever the formation, Harris looks forward to contributing. "I came here to get an education and be a part of a championship team," he said. "I think I had a good spring and I have worked hard to get where I am. Our defense is young, especially the linebackers, but I think we're going to surprise some people."

Much has been said and written about Alabama's lack of depth due to NCAA sanctions. Harris has heard the talk and is tired of it. "We've got plenty of depth," he said. "We may not have a lot of experience, but we've got guys who can play. Everyone thinks that because Dwayne and Ralph are gone, that means we're going to struggle. I see a lot of talent and dedication out here. We've got some freshmen coming in that are as good as starters on some other teams. Our defensive line is strong and I think our secondary is the best in the country. We've gone through some changes with Coach Stallings leaving, but that's part of football."

The departure of Gene Stallings, while not unexpected, was a blow to Harris. "I think we all knew he was leaving before the Auburn game, but we didn't know for sure. When he announced it after the game, it was sad, but we knew we had to move on."

After being named Alabama's next head

coach, Mike DuBose made an immediate impression on Harris. "During that first team meeting, we all just looked at each other because we knew things were going to be different," said Harris. "He said we were going to be a stronger, more aggressive team on both sides of the ball. He told us that some of us would not be living in the dorm next year and he expects us to conduct ourselves like Alabama football players should. If we don't, we'll have to answer to him. I don't think any of us want to find out what that's like. He said every one of us would have a chance to play because he was looking for the best two players at each position."

DuBose's renewed dedication to strength and conditioning has made Harris and his teammates realize the importance of conditioning. Under DuBose's direction new Strength Coach Terry Jones has implemented an off-season conditioning program that may be the most intense ever at Alabama. "It was a tough summer," said Harris. "We worked hard every day. Whether it was sprints, agility drills or lifting, we had a lot of guys here and they all got stronger. Coach Jones is real good at motivating. You want to work hard because he lets you know how and when it will pay off."

Harris' first spring practice under DuBose was a fruitful one. Having played primarily on special teams throughout his career, making only 13 total tackles, he began to come into his own. Taking advantage of the wide-open race at linebacker, he emerged from spring practice in a virtual dead heat with Trevis Smith for the starting job at weakside linebacker.

In the A-Day game, Harris played well, if not exceptional, making two tackles and an interception. Although Smith was listed first on the depth chart following spring practice, Rouzie's liberal substitution policy among the linebackers will assure Harris of some solid playing time.

"To be honest, I really don't care if I start or not," said Harris. "Coach Rouzie has told us that in the two-deep lineup, we'll both get about the same amount of snaps. I'm just grateful for the opportunity."

With the start of the season just a few days away, Harris feel that the lack of name recognition among the Tide linebacker corps will be an advantage. "We don't have any stars or All-America candidates, anything like that," he said. "Most people haven't heard of Steven Harris or Trevis Smith or Tito Smith and that's good. If we play like I think we can, they'll learn our names real quick."



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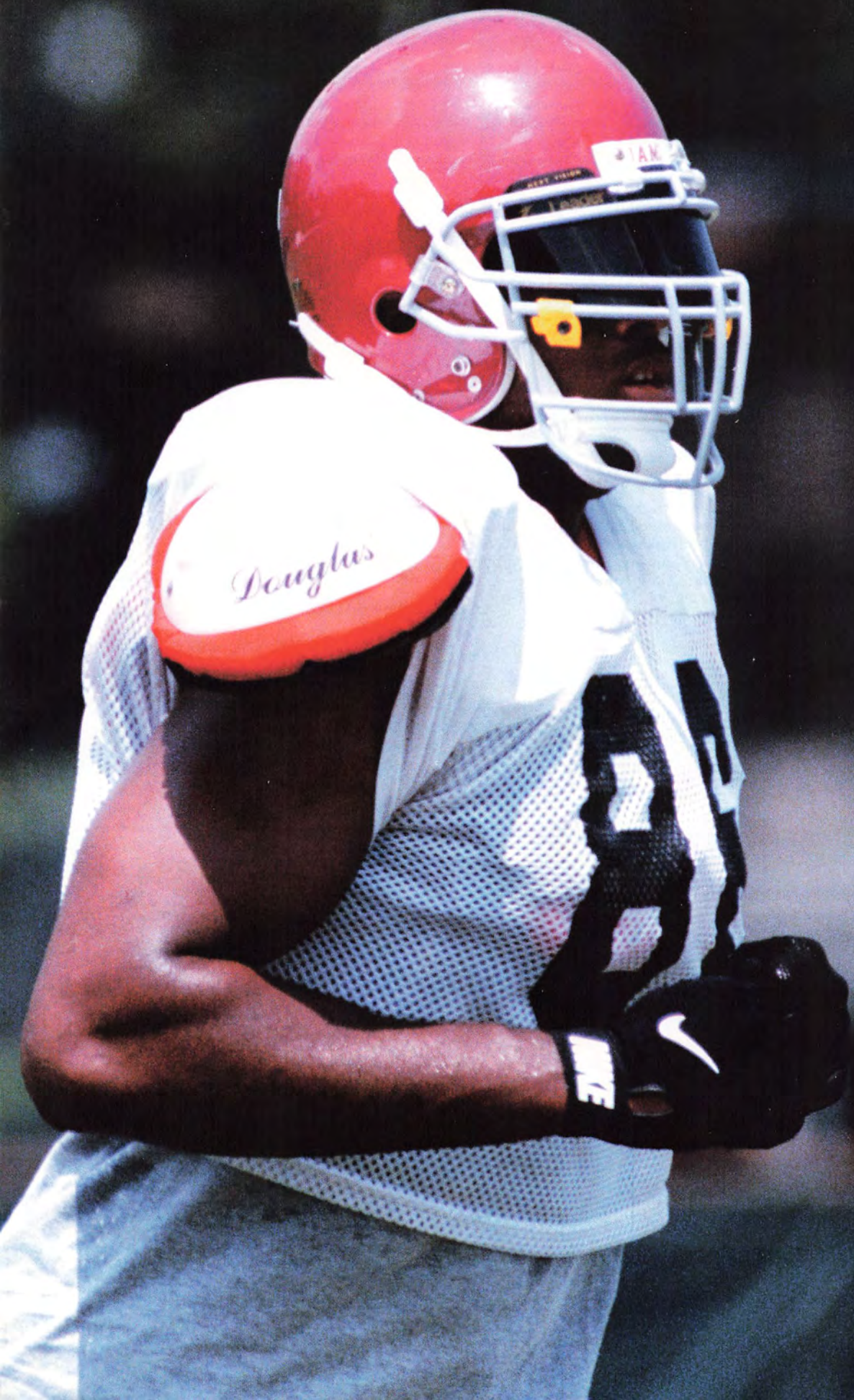
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Rod Rutledge:

Senior Tight End Has His Priorities In Order

by Kirk McNair

He's worked hard to overcome injury and prepare himself

Rod Rutledge has his priorities straight. Even though, as usual, there is talk about how much the tight end is going to be utilized as a pass receiver at Alabama this year, and even though Rutledge loves the excitement of catching a pass, he knows that for Bama to be successful the offense has to be able to run the football. And he knows that for Alabama to run the football, the tight end has to block. "The most important thing I can do is block," he said. "I don't ever see that changing, and I think every tight end understands that."

Still, Rutledge takes a little hope as he enters his senior year as the Crimson Tide tight end that his position might include being a quarterback's target a little more frequently. That wouldn't take much. As Rutledge said, in the past few years the tight end as a receiver has been "almost non-existent. About the only time a pass came to a tight end was when the coaches insisted on it."

But Rutledge gained some hope last spring when former Tide tight end Tony Johnson dropped by campus. Johnson was finished for the season with the New Orleans Saints, and Tide Head Coach Mike DuBose had hired the Saints' quarterback coach, Bruce Arians. "Tony enlightened me on Coach Arians," Rutledge said. "He said at New Orleans he had run something like the West Coast offense with a lot of hots, short passes where the tight end is featured because he's the first check point. I'm looking forward to it."

Rutledge said he could understand having had only seven receptions in 1996 and only eight in his three-year career, despite having played in virtually every game the past three years. For the most part he was splitting

time with the likes of Johnson and Patrick Hape (now with the Tampa Bay Bucs). "I think last year Patrick had 12 catches and I had seven, so maybe that's about right for a tight end," Rutledge said. He added, "I should have had eight, but I got called for an offensive pass interference on a catch I made against Bowling Green." Rutledge said the official was right to flag him. "It was close, but I was guilty," he said.

Rutledge blames the 1996 Crimson Tide linebacking corps for that penalty. "The tight ends and linebackers had something going last year," Rutledge said. "We thought they were holding us, so when we went out on passes we started running into them. I guess that just carried over into the game. It taught me a lesson."

The 19 passes caught by Hape and Rutledge last year is equal to what Rutledge caught as a senior at Erwin High School in Birmingham. He had 19 catches for 331 yards for Coach Hal Riddle's 1993 team as he played both offense and defense. He was an all-state selection and regarded as one of the top prospects in Alabama.

Rutledge has already had one setback on his quest to be a much-used tight end in his final Bama season. Last spring, after two days in shorts in which numerous plays were quick passes to the tight end, Alabama got into full gear. "Coach Arians had talked to me before we started spring practice and told me how much we would be throwing to the tight ends," Rutledge said. "And in those first days, I caught a lot of passes."

Shortly into the first full contact practice, Rutledge caught yet another pass, then made a nice move to avoid a tackle by cornerback Michael Feagin. Rutledge remembered Secondary Coach Curley Hallman "kind of got on Michael." On the next play Rutledge caught another pass, this time on the side away from Feagin, but as Rutledge made his

Rod Rutledge has played in every Crimson Tide game since his freshman year in 1994, but he has usually been the back-up. This year he will be the starter at tight end. He doesn't want 1997 to be the last year he plays football.

Barry Fikes Photo

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way downfield, Feagin came from his cornerback position and made the tackle. "He wanted to make sure he got me down," Rutledge said. "It just so happened my foot had planted just as he hit me." The result was a knee injury and a broken bone. "He apologized to me, but I had no problem with it," Rutledge said. "He was just doing his job."

Rutledge has made nearly a full recovery as Bama's first game approaches. Following the Tide's first game-type scrimmage, Head Coach Mike DuBose noted, "Rod Rutledge wanted to go a lot more. He's not 100 per cent yet, but he wanted the work because he knows that's how he's going to get back to 100 per cent."

Rutledge, 6-4 and 265 pounds, admits that he is motivated by professional football. In fact, the measurements he recites for himself are those recorded when he was measured and timed and "Pro Day" prior to 1997 spring training. "Pro Day" is a day when scouts and coaches from various professional teams and/or combines descend on Tuscaloosa to put upcoming senior players who may be professional football prospects through their paces. In addition to being measured, Rutledge was found to run the 40-yard dash in 4.67 seconds.

His dream of playing professional football had already played a part in formulating his summer plans. "I had planned to stay on campus all summer and work out," he said. "This is my last go-around, and I wanted to be in the best shape possible and be the best-prepared I could be. There's a big difference in how you look at your life when you are a freshman or a sophomore and how you look at it when you're a senior. I know where I want my career to go and I thought my best chance for that was to be here."

However, instead of making himself better, Rutledge spent the summer making himself as close to whole as possible. He spent the summer rehabilitating. Although he was pronounced ready to practice, DuBose made the decision to practice Rod just once a day during three-a-day practices. He also had Rutledge in a knee brace. Although Rutledge appeared to retain something of a limp, it was more from wearing the brace than from his injury.

Rutledge has experience in the workout arena. Following spring training he was named "Lifter of the Year," one of the regular post-spring practice awards. "I'm not the strongest guy on the team and I'm not the fastest guy on the team," Rutledge said. "But I like to believe that I work harder than anyone on the team, and I guess that's why I got

that award. I'm in the weight room every day and I'm always first in line for agility drills."

That's all part of the plan. Rutledge said, "I don't want to look back one day when I'm day-dreaming on my nine-to-five job and think, 'If I'd done a little more, I could have made it in the NFL.' I don't need motivation from my parents or my coaches. I'm motivated by the NFL."

"That doesn't mean that I don't think an education is important. I do. I should graduate next summer. But everyone who plays football at this level would love to have an NFL contract. It's not a matter of this one (NFL contract) or that one (business degree). It's a matter of I want both."

Rutledge has played in 37 games in his first three years at Alabama and has started five of those games, two as a sophomore, three last year. This year he rates to be the starter. And he also hopes to catch more passes.

"I've enjoyed the passes I have caught," he said. He particularly remembers a one-hand-

ed snare he made on a screen pass against Vanderbilt to gain 24 yards and a 23-yard gain he had against Ole Miss after catching the ball in the open field. "There wasn't a lot of running skill involved in either," he said. "I was wide open. That's a good feeling to catch the ball in the open field."

Still, Rutledge knows that he must plan to catch the ball in traffic, those over-the-middle receptions that separate the men from the boys. "I don't mind that, because I'm bigger than most of the guys trying to tackle me," he said. "Still, some of those defensive backs pack a punch."

He said that Assistant Coach Dabo Swinney has the tight ends catching passes in traffic. "We work on it every day, getting hit just as the ball gets to us," Rutledge said. "The way I figure it, we're not going to get that many opportunities to catch a pass, so when one comes I want to make sure I catch it. I try to catch everything thrown to me in practice so the coaches and Freddie (quarterback Freddie Kitchens) will have confidence to throw it to me in the game."

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New Staff Members:

Take A Glance At Track Coach

by Donna Fromme

Alabama gets a steal
in former Olympian
Harvey Glance of Auburn

Changes continued throughout the summer of 1997 on the Crimson Tide's athletic staff. As of mid-August, the department had 14 new hirings, 13 of those among its coaching staff and one professional staff member.

Among the most head-turning of its hirings was Bama's steal of Auburn Head Track and Field Coach and Olympic Gold Medalist Harvey Glance. Glance is a 1997 inductee into the state of Alabama Sports Hall of Fame for his exploits on the track, some of it from his days as an Auburn sprinter where he was a 16-time All-America. He's been Auburn's head coach for the last six years and was to begin his tenure at rival Alabama after he coached (head coach) the United States contingency at the World University Games in Sicily in late August. The Phenix City native once held the world record in the 100-meter dash. He participated in three Olympic Games and won his gold medal in 1976. He also won gold

Harvey Glance has had extraordinary success both as an athlete and as a coach in track and field. Alabama has hired him away from his alma mater, Auburn.

Auburn University Photo



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in Pan-American, World Cup, and Goodwill games and in the World Track Championships. Auburn athletes under Glance won 91 individual All-America awards and four of his athletes became Olympians.

Glance's Alabama staff will include one of his Auburn assistants, Rod Tiffin. Tiffin, who was graduated from Auburn in 1990, was an All-Southeastern Conference decathlete at Auburn and will work with Alabama's field events. Tiffin's collegiate track background began as an athlete at Alabama-Birmingham, where he later became an assistant and then the Blazers' head track and field coach. He was an assistant for two seasons and head coach for a season. While at UAB, 33 of his Blazers were named all-conference and four were All-America. Six of the athletes he coached with Glance at Auburn became All-Americans, two of those earning NCAA individual championships.

David Troy remains as Alabama's distance coach for the men's team.

There were numerous rumors regarding the selection of Glance, including innuendo that it was retaliation for Auburn having hired former Bama Assistant Football Coach Bill Oliver to be the Tigers' defensive coordinator. However, Alabama Athletics Director Bob Bockrath said the selection of Glance was absolutely not an attempt to wound Auburn. "The University of Alabama has been searching for a high-quality person to lead our men's track and field program, and we are excited to have someone of Harvey's qualifications," Bockrath said. "As an Olympic gold medalist, head coach for the World University Games, and a member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, Harvey's credentials speak for themselves."

Glance earned his degree in Health and Human Performance in 1991.

There were reports that Glance was a bit disappointed with a policy change at Auburn whereby football players who had previously been permitted to participate in outdoor track and field were denied that privilege. More likely, the prime factor in Alabama being able to attract Glance was an increased salary and the responsibility to coach only one team. He

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had been men's and women's coach at Auburn, and Alabama recently divided the positions.

Glance seemed genuinely pleased to be moving to Bama. "This is a very positive move for myself and my family and will give me the opportunity as a head coach to work towards SEC and national championships," he said. "I am very excited about the possibility of bringing a national title to Alabama. More importantly, I'm proud to have an opportunity to work with the student-athletes at Alabama."

New as an assistant to the women's track program is Keith Barnier, a Moorhead State graduate who was a three-time conference champion there with a specialty in the hurdles. While earning his masters degree, he worked as an assistant track and field coach at St. Thomas University where he coached one national champion and 21 All-Americans. He left there for Alabama where he worked on Doug Williamson's staff from 1990-92. He left Alabama to

become head coach at Carleton College, a Division III competitor. He returns to Alabama from Clemson where he has been the sprint and horizontal jumps coach.

Bama announced last month Alabama's June hiring of Sandra Fowler as its first women's head track and field coach. In addition to Barnier, Fowler has hired distance coach Rachele Roberts as an assistant. Roberts was an assistant at Iowa before coming to Tuscaloosa. She is a 1990 graduate of Iowa where she was an All-American. She ran professionally for an Indiana track club for three years after graduating from Iowa and is a member of the Indiana Track and Field Hall of Fame. Roberts' coaching career began as an assistant at Gaither High School in Tampa, Florida. In the fall of 1992, she moved up to the collegiate level as a men's and women's assistant and the head coach of the Murray State cross country team, producing a conference champion in 1995. After five seasons at Murray State, Roberts returned to Iowa for a season before joining Alabama's

staff. She is a native of Columbus, Indiana.

Other staff changes at Alabama this summer have included the previously announced hiring of head women's tennis coach Jenny Mainz and her assistant Jennifer Hyde, men's basketball assistants Kermit Koenig, Tyrone Beaman and administrative assistant Scott St. John, and women's basketball assistants Mike Murphy, Pat Charity and Cassandra Crumpton-Moorer.

And yet more hirings are to be made as Head Men's Tennis Coach Joey Rivé, who took Alabama to back-to-back NCAA regional appearances in his last two of a total of three seasons at Alabama, resigned in late July. Rivé began a job as a coach for the up-and-coming junior stars of the USTA on August 11. His successor was expected to be named by late August or early September, perhaps after classes for new and returning men's tennis players had already begun.

Alabama was also interviewing applicants for positions as lifefitness director and assistant media relations director.

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First Players Facing Final Season

by Donna Fromme

Staley wants his seniors to leave Bama as winners

The Class of 1997 is a unique one for Don Staley's Crimson Tide soccer program. It is composed of the young women who took a dare four years ago and joined a program that didn't even exist five years ago.

"Women who shared a vision; that's the theme this season," said Staley. "During my coaching career first at Radford in men's and women's soccer and now at Alabama, I've coached Olympians, guys who were scoring champions in Division One. But these seniors are the most special group that I've ever had. Radford had tradition in soccer when I arrived there. But these women, these nine seniors, believed in the vision, and I'll always be dedicated to them for that. It makes for a strong alumni base for years to come."

It was a gamble that paid off quickly for those women with the Tide winning the Southeastern Conference's Western Division championship in just its second season of operation. And Alabama has been stacking up the individual awards as well. With just three complete seasons, Alabama has already produced three first team All-SEC players and three more second team All-SEC stars. Six have been named to the All-SEC Tournament Teams and another was honored by the league office as its "SEC Player of the Week." And their work produced an important moment in Staley's career as he was named 1995 "SEC Coach of the Year."

His honor was well-deserved. After all, a man who comes in with no players and no field in the winter of 1994 and has a conference contender by 1995 can no doubt coach. Along with that, he proved he could sell a vision.

"I remember when he came down to watch us play in a tournament," said Nikki Kubiszyn of her recruitment by Staley as a high school senior. "I hadn't even heard of Alabama's soccer program when he visited. I was being recruited by Notre Dame at the time, and I said to myself that I doubted I would go to Alabama. But after talking to



Nikki Kubiszyn



Jennifer Carle



Ashley Kirkland

Coach Staley, and after my visit to Alabama, I decided that this is where I wanted to be."

The goal Staley has set for his senior class of 1997 is quite simple. He wants them to go out winners.

"My goal with this senior-laden team is to win," said Staley who also begins his fourth season with Alabama after it added soccer to its list of varsity sports in 1994. "It's always to win. Always to go to the playoffs. But it's to win the SEC. It's important to me that these nine seniors go out well."

"I already feel good about what they've accomplished, and it goes far beyond the soccer field. There's a lot to be said about the friendships and experience these kids have gone through since they came here. I'm proud of the bond they developed, the way they went into the classroom and worked hard. They have made the best of the college experience."

Given the fact that Alabama started its program from scratch and had just a matter of months to put together its first squad in 1994, advancing to the NCAA's elite field of 32 might still be a goal that's above what a team with only three years behind it can achieve. But Staley knows Alabama can be an SEC contender. He's done it before.

"On the field we haven't made it—yet—to the NCAA tournament, but I have given these seniors a chance to play against the top teams in the country, the very best teams out there. And when you're an athlete who aspires to put the most you can into your career like these women are, that's important."

"A berth in the NCAA playoffs will always be the thing we strive for, but this year is going to be about SEC pride. You walk before you can run. You can only play one

game at a time. And we want to take it one win at a time. This year we intend to get better at winning on the road. Last year we were 9-2-1 at home and 0-7-1 on road, so one of our goals is to find that winning combination on the road that we enjoy at home. And we want to play composed, quality soccer. And thirdly, the top goal to this team has to be the SEC West. We want to win that and get into the SEC playoffs which in turn could result in the NCAA trip."

It is also an important year to make a strike. Nine of Alabama's players are seniors, an impact that makes for a colossal strength in 1997 and a bit of a scare for 1998 when the inexperienced must take over those slots.

Alabama returns eight starters from its 9-9-2 team of 1996 which finished third in the SEC West and produced a first team All-SEC keeper in then-senior Amy Pseja who is a volunteer assistant this year while she finishes her degree work. The most successful of those returning is senior forward Ashley Kirkland, an All-SEC Tournament selection who was voted Second Team All-SEC.

Her cast of teammates who could return to the starting lineup again includes senior sweeper Nellie Barnes who was voted third-team All-Central Regional; senior defender Jennifer Carle, sophomore defender Kathleen Foody, midfielder Leah Formby, 1996 team MVP Kubiszyn who is a senior forward/sweeper, junior midfielder Christine Miller and sophomore defender Martha Mouring.

Ten other letter-winners are joined by nine freshmen. Alabama's only loss from 1996 was Pseja. Fighting for the spot to replace Pseja at goalkeeper are sophomore Carrie

Warner and freshmen Tasha Denecke and Latonda Eubank.

Eight of Staley's players were lured out of the state of Texas, which Staley describes as a coach's mecca for talent. The Lone Stars on Alabama's squad are Kirkland, Kubiszyn, sisters Jennifer and Tiffany Carle, Amy Lerche, Tracey Timmerman, Amanda Lewis and Martha Mouring.

"Texas has very good and very tough players because of its year-round club teams. Dallas alone has five nationally-recognized programs while the programs in Austin and San Antonio and a couple of other cities are up-and-coming. It's exciting when you get players with this strong background into your program because they can make an immediate impact."

In Alabama's first days of preseason practice in mid-August, Staley liked what he saw, particularly in his freshmen class. He was also greatly impressed with the work his veterans did in the off-season and the peak condition they returned in to the sweltering heat of three-a-days.

"We know for sure that our recruiting ef-

forts paid off this year. Melissa McGee is a player. The skill she adds to our midfield is very welcome. Tiffany Carle came in and shows she'll help us this year as well. She has an extremely strong leg. Amanda Lewis should see lots of playing time as well, so I'm pleased," said Staley. "The team as a whole is very fit. I think that's a compliment to them and our strength and conditioning people as well as the spring season we had. Playing those games against other teams last spring helped show what level we needed to be playing at, and our players certainly responded."

Helping keep Staley and Alabama on pace in 1997 will be his two assistants who return from last season, Melissa Mitchell and Sue Williams. Alabama's 1997 schedule is highlighted by eight home appearances. Its home opener will be on September 5 when Alabama plays host to Oral Roberts as a part of the September 5-7 Crimson Classic and then plays Troy State on September 7 to conclude the tournament. Home conference games include Georgia on September 12, Tennessee on September 14, Arkansas on October 19 and Auburn on October 26.

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Harriers Have High Hopes

by Todd Anderson

Troy knows what to expect from men, but everything is new to women's coach

As a part of Alabama's decision to divide its track and field team into a men's team and a women's team, with separate head coaches, the Crimson Tide also has separate coaches for its cross country teams. However, as has traditionally been the case, the two teams will have identical schedules.

Last year David Troy was head coach of both squads, but this year will coach the men's team only. If experience is a barometer for predicting the future, then Troy should have great expectations this fall. The new coach of the women's team is Rachelle Roberts. She can only be cautiously optimistic since she has little knowledge of the members of her squad.

Troy returns 10 men from a 1996 squad of 11. Unfortunately, that one missing is one of the best in Bama history, Faizal Emaumaalee, who led the team in spirits as well as performance on the cross country courses in 1996.

"We're not an especially young team this year," said Troy. "We have five guys that are fifth-year seniors. They will come in wanting and hoping that their final year of eligibility will be their best year. The team will have good leadership and they will be well motivated."

Motivation should be a key this year, according to Troy, as the Tide embarks on a grueling schedule that should test the team to the limits. That's part of the territory in the Southeastern Conference, which has excellent cross country competition. As usual, the team will start off its season at the Crimson Classic in Tuscaloosa, an invitational that gives Alabama the chance to evaluate the competition. But, said Troy, possibly the toughest meet of the season will come at the Murray Keating Invitational in Orono, Maine, on October 11. "The Murray Keating Invitational is kind of a different meet for us," Troy said. "This is a meet that teams from all over the country come to compete in. It will be a chance for us to see



Brian Hesson

some new people and some new faces. Stanford, last year's champion, will be there, and they went on to win the national championship in 1996." Stanford, winner of the NCAA title in both men's and women's competition, will return with its teams to the Maine meet.

If Alabama is to compete against 1996 SEC champion Arkansas, the Tide will need to rely on its senior leadership. With Emaumaalee gone, the Crimson Tide must rely on fifth-year seniors Brian Hesson, Preston Hill, Mike LeMaster, James McIngvale and Jody Spangler. Recruiting has produced quality freshmen in Ed Carmack, Jais Stanfield and Troy Henderson. Stanfield, a Mountain Brook native, won the state championship in the two-mile run in 1996 and 1997 as well as the state championship in the mile in 1996. Henderson, a Gardendale native, dethroned Stanfield as mile champion in 1997. Carmack, according to Troy, was one of the top 20 high school runners in the country. Troy believes this team may be one of his best. But, the summer workouts could be key for the Tide come September 13, the Tide's first meet. "Arkansas returns their entire team from a year ago and they handily won the conference with that team and were runner-up in the national championships," he said. "They are sort of the insurmountable foe in the conference. So, the rest of the teams will be fighting for who is going to finish in second place. We were second in the conference



Caroline Kerr

meet last year so we should be considered the next best after Arkansas heading into this season."

Things may look somewhat different in district competition this season. Alabama will compete in a new district, District Nine, because of NCAA realignment. "The new division is just a division of the old District Three," said Troy. "The size of District Three was what caused the need for the realignment. Actually, District Three was just divided in half. It eliminated a lot of the teams in our district, but we are seeing a lot of the same faces. The SEC will be our main competition." And, while Troy and his team may have to wait until the district championships to see the whole field, his team gets a preview of the course on September 20. "The district meet is in Spain Park in Birmingham this year," he said. "We will run a meet there on September 20 against Florida and Florida State. There is a pre-district meet in Spain Park but it does not fit into ours, Florida's or Florida State's schedule."

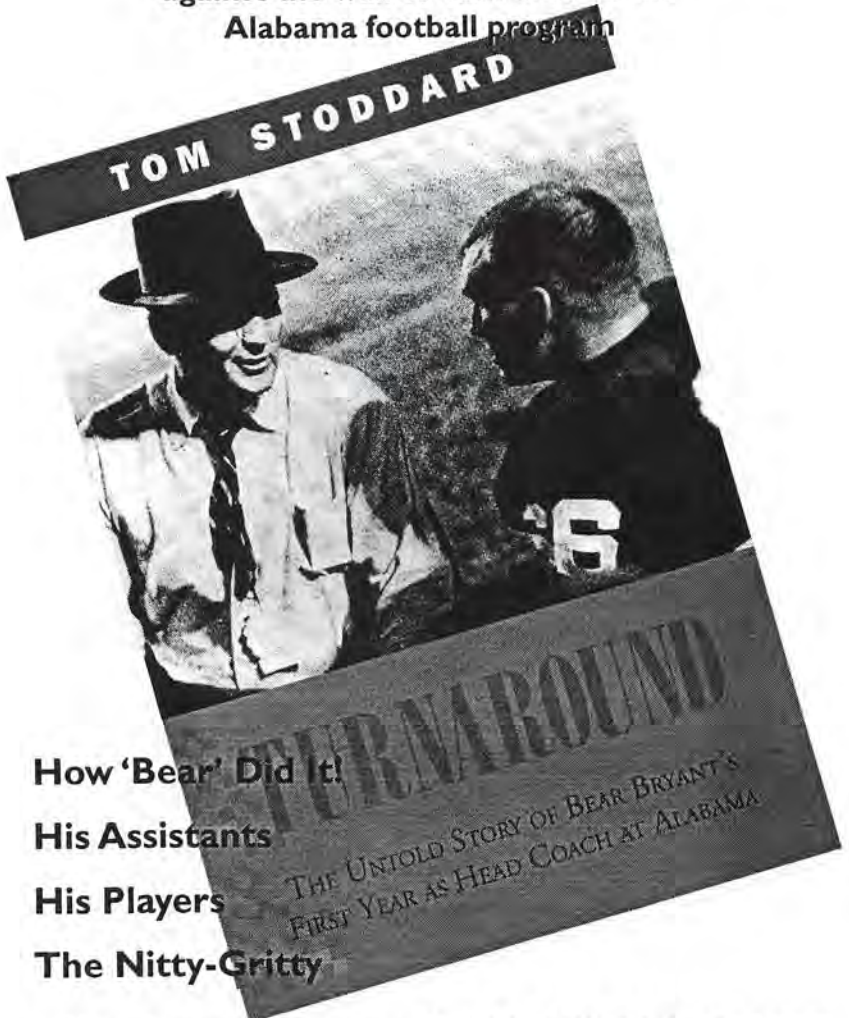
Everyone likes nice surprises. New Women's Track Coach Sandy Fowler and Women's Cross Country Coach Rachelle Roberts just hope they get one this fall.

"It's kind of hard to say how our team will do," said Roberts. "We've never seen these girls compete or practice. All that we've seen is their statistics." But she knows the Tide has some talent. Caroline Kerr and Liz

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Lopacki return to help lead a team that finished seventh in the SEC a year ago. Both Roberts and Fowler are optimistic about what lies ahead. "I think a big part of it right now is getting their confidence high and getting them to believe in what we're doing. That's what we train for. And, once those things fall into place, it falls into place for the athletes." After being hired late in the summer, Fowler has had a full schedule. This may be a season full of surprises for the young coach. She is ready. "Every time you make a change like that, it's a challenge to the people coming in," Fowler said. "It's a challenge to the coach and it's a challenge to the athletes. They have to develop a respect for the coaches. I don't think those things are anything major in regards to affecting the athletes in a negative way. The response I have gotten from the athletes is extremely positive. They were looking for a change. They are excited about a change. They want to win and they want to do it right. If that's the case, you choose success. Success is a choice and you choose everything that goes along with it."

The women also point to the Keating as the meet of note this year. "We have a diverse schedule with a couple of pretty high-powered meets," Roberts said. "Stanford, Nebraska and Providence are all at the meet in Maine. Arizona and Michigan will also be competing against us."

"The women's cross country team finished seventh in the SEC last year, so any improvement would be seen as very successful," Roberts said. Said Fowler, "In my looking at it, I do see some young ladies who do have some talent. And the talent, I feel, needs to be directed in the correct manner so that the ladies will reap the benefits. And again, that goes back to the training philosophy and the ladies and us giving it that type of emphasis."

As in most sports, the SEC is most powerful. Indeed, it is unrealistic to expect Bama to be able to finish much above fifth. "Florida's coming back strong because they have a lot of people returning," Fowler said. "I believe they only graduated one person. Georgia is another team to look out for because they were young last year and they redshirted a lot of people. Vanderbilt would be another team to watch. After the top four, everything else is pretty much wide open."

Fowler believes the splitting of the men's and women's programs will prove beneficial. "Look at similar programs," she said. "LSU is an example of that and Arkansas is an example of that. And maybe that's because the athletes will tend to get more time and more attention and more individual work. I think that will definitely help the athletes."

BAMA SCORECARD

Well-Paid Staff

The *Huntsville Times* must have decided there wasn't enough competition between Alabama and Auburn, because the newspaper sent out investigative reporters to determine which had the highest-paid athletics staffs. As in most competitions between the two, Alabama won, if paying more is winning.

According to figures published by the newspaper, Alabama was able to attract Harvey Glance as head men's track coach at Bama by paying him a lot more to do less. Glance will make \$65,000 for coaching just the men at Alabama, whereas the new Auburn coach, when Glance's replacement is named, will receive \$50,140 for coaching men and women. Bama Women's Head Coach Sandy Fowler is paid \$55,000 per year.

Tide Athletics Director Bob Bockrath is paid substantially more than Auburn's David Housel, \$190,000 to \$127,000, and Bockrath has bonus incentives that could drastically increase his pay. Tide coaches were paid higher in all jobs except swimming and men's and women's basketball. The women's basketball coaches at both schools are paid \$110,000, which is what the men's coach at Auburn is paid. Alabama Men's Basketball Coach David Hobbs is paid \$105,000, but it is believed Hobbs' overall package is worth much more. Tide Head Football Coach Mike DuBose makes \$150,000 in salary from The University, about 30 per cent of what his overall contract is worth and \$15,000 per year more than Terry Bowden's salary of \$135,000 from Auburn.

In most cases the salaries were fairly close, although Bama Gymnastics Coach Sarah Patterson makes \$83,000 compared to her counterpart's \$44,860; Baseball Coach Jim Wells is paid \$90,000, which is \$13,500 more than the baseball coach at Auburn; and Tide Softball Coach Kalum Haack earns \$51,500, the Auburn coach \$32,450.

Auburn Swimming Coach Dave Marsh, whose team won the national championship last year, makes \$75,000, while Bama's Chuck Horton earns \$47,400.

In virtually every case at Alabama, the salary paid to a coach by The University is only a part of the overall earnings of that coach because of other income opportunities.

No Pell Grant Problem

Making those big bucks means having to handle the big problems, and so it is for Athletics Director Bob Bockrath. When the

Miami Herald brought up some old news, the Pell Grant fraud that rocked the University of Miami a few years ago, Alabama's name came into the picture. The newspaper said that Tony Russell, former Miami academic advisor who arranged loans whereby athletes secured thousands of dollars in grants, had also helped athletes at other schools fraudulently obtain Pell Grant money. One of the schools where he reportedly did this was at Alabama.

However, Bockrath said the situation had been investigated at Alabama and he is confident "There's been nothing on our end to indicate that there is any problem."

Some 21 schools are apparently going to be investigated by the federal Education Department in conjunction with the charges. There have been reports of Mississippi State having under gone an audit.

Stadium Growth

One area where the athletics director probably will not make a unilateral decision is whether Bryant-Denny Stadium will under go any further expansion. The current expansion is expected to be completed early next year and some 82,000 will be able to see Crimson Tide games in Tuscaloosa. When the expansion was announced, it was reported that the master plan also included upper deck expansion of both end zones, which could eventually bring capacity to something over 100,000. It is likely the laws of supply and demand, which will be more accurate after all Alabama games move to Tuscaloosa in 2002, will determine further expansion.

Football And Academics

Mike DuBose's first Alabama football team includes a few academic casualties, but all-in-all it was very positive. Two Crimson Tide signees, tight end Marlon Davis and defensive end Larry Paul, were not academically eligible and have announced they would enter junior college. Two signees, running back Shaun Bohanon and lineman Carlos Santana Stennis, are partial qualifiers, meaning they are eligible for practice, but not for games. They will have three years of eligibility beginning next fall.

Because Alabama signed 26 players in February, expecting Davis not to be eligible, the Tide came up one short on signees. However, Bama was able to fill in with a late signee, cornerback Antoine Hunter, who had originally signed with Georgia out of high school, then planned to enter Clemson this year after finishing junior college. A junior college grade reportedly would not

transfer to Clemson.

One returning player, offensive guard Corey Kinnebrew, is academically ineligible to play this year, but will be able to practice.

Captains

The Alabama football coaching staff will appoint game captains throughout the season, then allow the squad to elect captains at the end of the year. Named captains for the opening game were quarterback Freddie Kitchens and running back Curtis Alexander for offense, cornerback Deshea Townsend for defense, and strong safety Andre Short for special teams.

Hall Of Fame Nominees

Five former Alabama football players are among those nominated for induction into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 1998 in the most prestigious group, modern era performers from the fields of football, basketball and baseball. They are wide receiver Dennis Homan (who played 1965-67), quarterback Scott Hunter (1968-70), running back Major Ogilvie (1977-80), quarterback Richard Todd (1973-75), and halfback Butch Wilson (1960-62).

Additionally, former Tide Swimming Coach Don Gambriel is nominated in the modern category for other sports.

The "Old Timers" category includes a number of those with Alabama ties, including long-time announcer John Forney, basketball great Jerry Harper, Baseball and Basketball Coach Hayden Riley, and former football stars Hugh Morrow, Ed Salem and John Wozniak.

Broadcast Crew

Jerry Duncan may be back on the Alabama sidelines for The Alabama Sports Network's radio broadcasts of Crimson Tide games. Duncan, an all-time Bama favorite since his playing days in the mid-1960s, retired from his job as sideline commentator prior to last year. Kirk Wood, president of TASN, did not replace Duncan last year. Wood said he told Duncan that this year the sideline gear would go to every game and Duncan could show up and work whenever he wishes.

The Alabama football radio broadcast team lost its long-time voice, John Forney, who died at age 70 on July 31, shortly after attending the Southeastern Conference media days.

Changes Coming?

When SEC athletics directors met in Birmingham recently they did not bring up

BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/SEPTEMBER '97

a proposal to change the current football schedule plan. Currently, the SEC is divided into East and West Divisions, six teams in each. Each team plays the other five teams in its division, two traditional opponents (in Alabama's case, Vanderbilt and Tennessee) from the other division, and one of the other four members of the opposite division. That other member is played in a two-year rotation, home and away, meaning it takes eight years to get through the schedule.

There has been an informal proposal that a team in one division could not play an opponent from the other division more than twice in any four-year period, meaning such traditional rivalries as Alabama-Tennessee would be broken up. The new proposal would have a team playing its five division opponents, then three teams in the opposite division for two years (home and away) and then the other three teams in the other division for two years.

Baseball To Birmingham

Although the SEC prefers to give its plus (the football championship game and the basketball tournament) to places like Atlanta, the Alabama Sports Foundation under Gene Hallman ran the SEC Baseball Tournament so well in 1996 that the league athletics directors were happy to send it back to Birmingham for three years.

SEC Commissioner Roy Kramer said the tournament will be played at the Hoover Met next May. The league and the Alabama Sports Foundation came to an agreement which puts the game in Birmingham for the next two years with an option for a third year.

Most SEC baseball coaches would prefer the game be put in Birmingham on a permanent basis. The facility is excellent and ticket sales were the best ever when the tournament was at the Met, home of the Double A Birmingham Barons.

Last year's tournament at Columbus, Georgia, was a disappointment following the 1996 event in Birmingham. The Birmingham bid this year beat out those from Mobile, New Orleans, Nashville, Jackson and Lakeland, Florida.

Alabama has won the last two SEC Baseball tournaments.

Willard Ends On A High Note

Meredith Willard had planned to retire from gymnastics at the conclusion of her Crimson Tide career in the 1997 NCAA Championships. However, when she earned the right to represent the United States in the World University Games in Italy, she went back into action.

Although she suffered an inflamed elbow that limited her to one event in the games

in Italy, she made the most of her chance. Working with her college head coach, Sarah Patterson, who was an assistant coach for the United States team, Willard scored an 8.625, second best mark by an American, on the balance beam. That score helped the Americans to the Silver Medal in the competition.

Satisfying Win

When Alabama reinstated its soccer program four years ago, the Crimson Tide hired Don Staley to get the job done. Staley had been at Radford in Virginia.

This year it was probably more of a treat for the coach than for the players when the Crimson Tide played an early practice game at Radford. Bama earned a hard-fought victory in the contest when freshman Tiffany Carle hit an indirect kick late in the contest. That point was followed moments later by an insurance goal from sophomore Martha Mouring. Leah Formby had scored the Tide's first goal in the 3-1 scrimmage victory.

Volunteers Coach

Judi Schneider Pavon, an All-America golfer in her days at Alabama (1986-89), is now the assistant women's golf coach at Tennessee. Judi, who is married to former Bama men's golfer Tony Pavon, played on the LPGA Tour in 1991 and 1992 and has been playing on the Future's Tour, a mini-tour with events in the eastern United States.

Called Up

Cassandra Crumpton-Moorer, who is an assistant women's basketball coach at Alabama, is a professional player in the off-season. The former Tide playing star has been a member of the New York Liberty since its inception in the WNBA last spring. However, until recently she was a developmental player, meaning she only practiced

with the squad. Late in the season, though, she was called up to the professional team. She was to return to Tuscaloosa when the new women's squad completed its season in late August.

Farmer On US Team

Former Alabama men's basketball star Jim Farmer was selected to play for the USA team in the Men's Tournament of the Americas. Ten teams from North, South and Central America took part in the competition for the right to compete in the 1998 FIBA Men's World Championship in Greece. The United States team was made up of stars from the Continental Basketball Association.

Farmer currently plays for the Fort Wayne (Indiana) Fury of the CBA. He is a 10-year veteran of the CBA and NBA who averaged 14.1 points in 24 games with the Fury last season. He played at Alabama 1984-87, averaging 10.7 points in his career, and was instrumental as Bama won the SEC regular season and tournament championships his senior year. He was drafted by the Dallas Mavericks of the NBA and later played with the Magic Johnson All-Stars.

Namesakes Meet

The Paul Bryant Museum will once again host those who are named for former Alabama Football Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. In 1996 the museum hosted a by invitation tailgate party for those who had submitted information on being named for the former Tide coach. About 150 men and women named Paul or Bryant, or even Bear, were in the first group.

The tradition will continue this year on September 20, before the Alabama-Arkansas football game. Anyone who qualifies should contact the museum for an invitation. Either write to Paul W. Bryant Museum, Box 870385, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, or call (205) 348-4668.

1997 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time*
Aug. 30	Houston @ Birmingham (J-P)	11:30
Sept. 11	@ Vanderbilt (ESPN)	7:00
Sept. 20	Arkansas (JP)	11:30
Sept. 27	Southern Miss @ Birmingham (CBS)	2:30
Oct. 4	@ Kentucky	6:00
Oct. 18	Tennessee @ Birmingham (ESPN)	6:00
Oct. 25	@ Ole Miss (CBS)	2:30
Nov. 1	Louisiana Tech (homecoming)	1:00
Nov. 8	LSU (CBS)	2:30
Nov. 15	Mississippi State	1:30
Nov. 22	@ Auburn (ESPN)	6:30
Dec. 6	SEC Championship @ Atlanta (ABC)	7:00

*Central time, subject to change.

Schedules Of Alabama's 1997 Opponents

Team	Aug. 30	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
HOUSTON Cougars Houston, Texas	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 11:30 (4P)	California	Pittsburgh		@ Minnesota	@ UCLA		Cincinnati	@ Louisville	@ Memphis	East Carolina	@ Southern Miss	Tulane	
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.	North Texas		Sept. 11 ALABAMA 7:00 (ESPN)	TCU	@ Ole Miss	LSU	@ Northern Illinois	Georgia	@ South Carolina		@ Florida	Kentucky		@ Tennessee
ARKANSAS Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark.		Northeast Louisiana	@ SMU	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 11:30 (4P)	Louisiana Tech	@ Florida		South Carolina	Auburn		Nov. 6 @ Ole Miss	Tennessee	Mississippi State	Nov. 28 @ LSU
SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss.	@ Florida	@ Illinois		Nevada	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 2:30 (CBS)	Louisville	@ East Carolina		Tulane	@ Cincinnati	@ Tennessee	Houston	@ Memphis	
KENTUCKY Wildcats Lexington, Ky.	Louisville	@ Mississippi State		@ Indiana	Florida	ALABAMA 6:00	@ South Carolina	Northeast Louisiana	@ Georgia	LSU		Vanderbilt	Tennessee	
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.	Texas Tech	@ UCLA		@ Florida	Vanderbilt	Ole Miss	Georgia	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 6:00 (ESPN)		South Carolina	Southern Miss	@ Arkansas	@ Kentucky	Vanderbilt
OLE MISS Rebels Oxford, Miss.	Central Florida	SMU	@ Auburn			Tennessee		@ LSU	ALABAMA 2:30 (CBS)		Nov. 6 Arkansas	@ Tulane	Georgia	@ Mississippi State
LOUISIANA TECH Bulldogs Ruston, La.	Bowling Green		Northeast Louisiana	Central Michigan	@ Arkansas	California	@ Auburn	Arkansas State	@ Boise State	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 1:00	@ UAB	@ SW Louisiana		
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.		Texas El-Paso	@ Mississippi State	Auburn	Akron	@ Vanderbilt	Florida	Ole Miss		@ Kentucky	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 2:30 (CBS)	Notre Dame		Nov. 28 Arkansas
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.	Memphis	Kentucky	LSU		South Carolina	@ Georgia	Northeast Louisiana		Central Florida	@ Auburn		@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 1:30	@ Arkansas	Ole Miss
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.		Sept. 4 @ Virginia	Ole Miss	@ LSU	Central Florida	@ South Carolina	Louisiana Tech	Florida	@ Arkansas	Mississippi State		@ Georgia	ALABAMA 6:30 (ESPN)	

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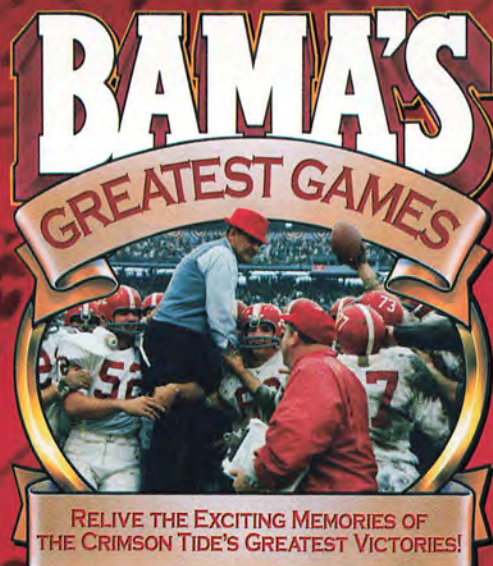
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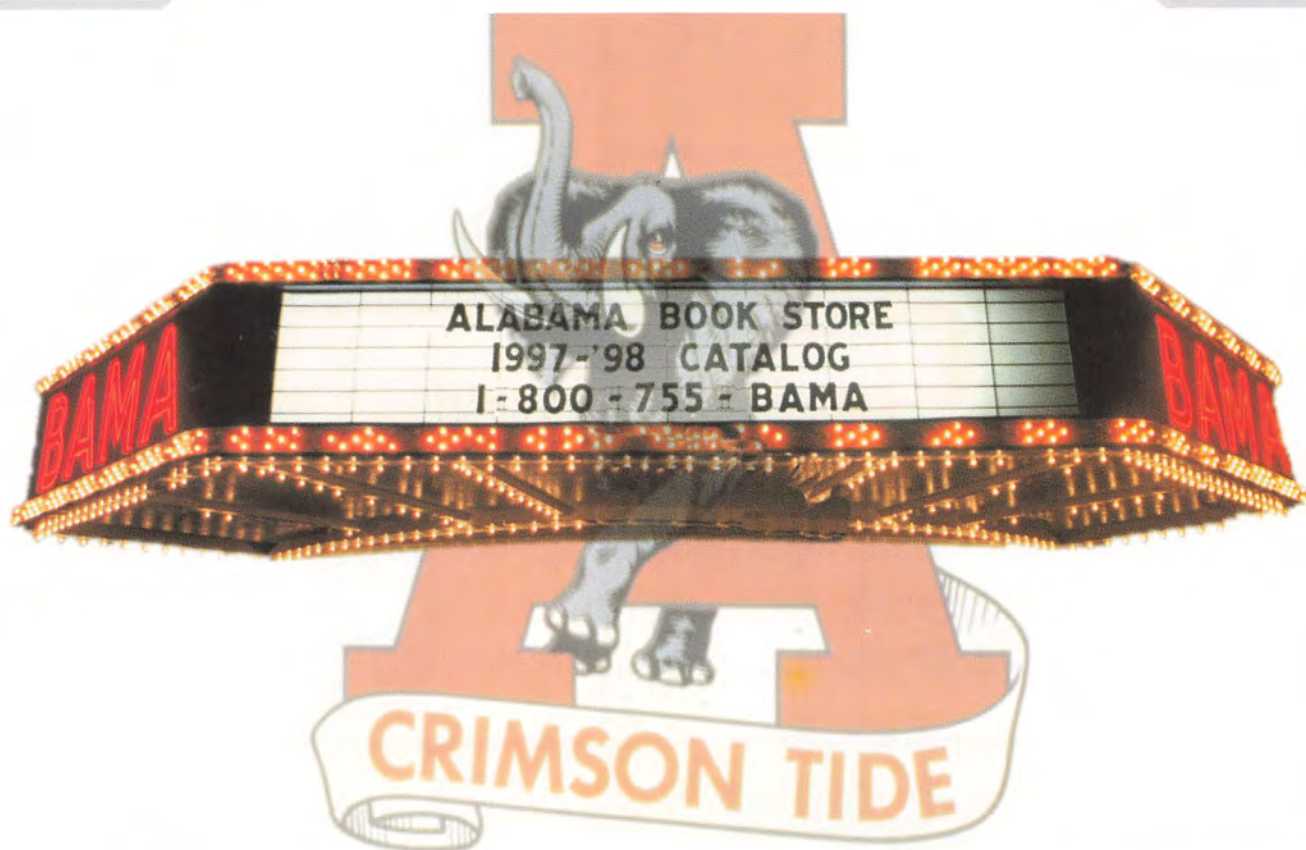
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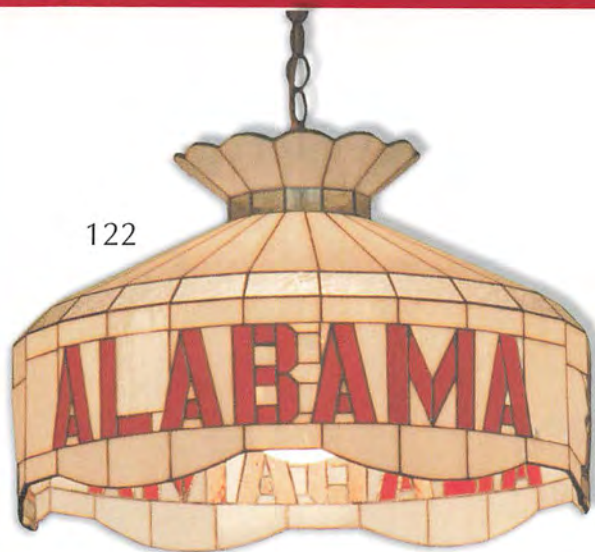
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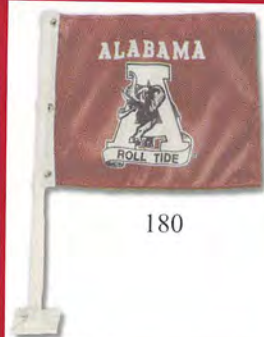
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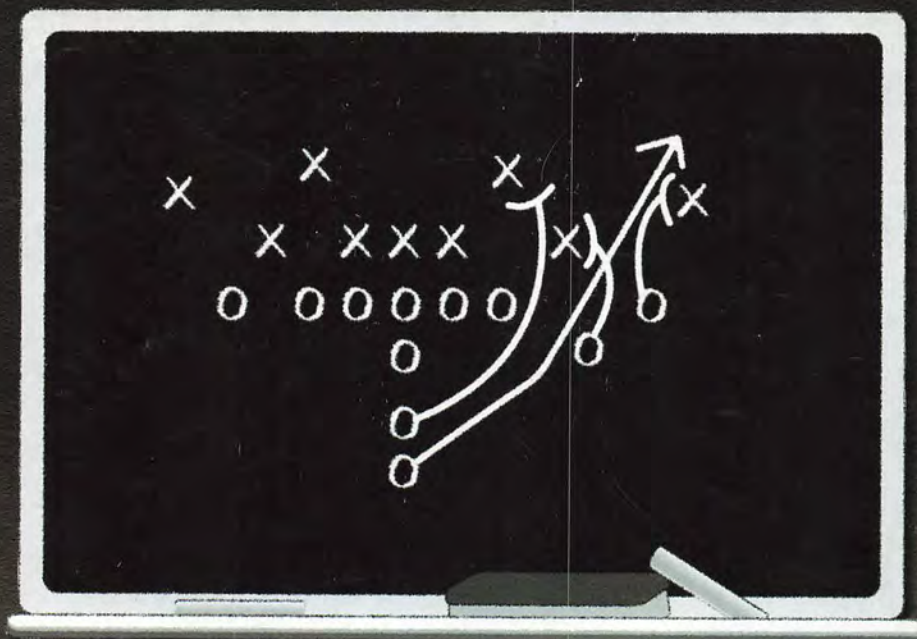
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